

July 1998



Cable Handbook

Post at all station
operator positions

Federal Communications Commission
Emergency Alert System

Attention Cable System Managers

EAS Requirement for Cable Television Systems				
Cable System Size	EAS Requirements	Effective Date	Small Cable System Requirements Under Option B	
Cable Systems with fewer than 5,000 subscribers per headend must comply with either Option A or B	<u>Option A</u> Provide the National Level EAS Message on all Programmed Channels--including the required testing. <u>Option B</u> Install EAS equipment that is capable if providing: (1) The Audio Alert Messages on all Programmed Channels. (2) Video Interrupt on all channel. (3) Audio and Video EAS Messages on one Programmed Channel.	October 1, 2002		
			Video Interruptions	Must include a statement telling listeners on which channel the EAS video and audio message is displayed. Must flash a blank or black television screen simultaneously with, and of the same duration, as the EAS message.
Cable systems with 5,000 to 10,000 subscribers per headend.	Install EAS equipment that is capable of providing Audio and Video EAS Messages on all Programmed Channels.	October 1, 2002		
Cable Systems with 10,000 subscribers or more per headend.	Install EAS equipment that is capable of providing Audio and Video EAS Messages on all Programmed Channels.	December 31, 1998		

Introduction

EAS Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide instructions for EAS participants to follow during national, state and local alerts and tests. This Handbook should be located at each operator position and should be immediately available to staff responsible for authenticating and initiating Emergency Action Notifications, Terminations, alerts and tests.

Contents of the Handbook

This Handbook contains simplified instructions for the following Emergency Alert procedures:

- **National Activation Procedures**
Activated by the President.
- **National Termination Procedures**
Activated by the President.
- **State and Local Activation Procedures**
Activated by State and Local Officials or others.
- **Monthly and Weekly EAS Test**
Activated according to State and Local plan.

EAS Designation

Each broadcast station and cable system has an EAS designation which defines its role in the EAS structure. These designations are found in EAS state and local plans or state mapbooks that can be obtained from the FCC. Find your station or system on the list for your EAS Local Area. Note the EAS Local Area you serve and indicate this information on the front cover of this handbook.

For more detailed information, refer to the EAS rules and regulations, 47 CFR, Part 11, and the EAS Activation and Testing Procedures.

In the event the EAS equipment becomes defective, a broadcast station or cable system may operate without the defective equipment pending its repair or replacement for a period not in excess of 60 days without further FCC authority.

Entries shall be made in the broadcast station or cable system records showing the date and time the equipment was removed and restored to service.

For personnel training purposes, the required monthly test script must still be transmitted even though the equipment for generating the EAS message codes, Attention Signal and EOM code is not functioning.

Use of Automatic Encoder and Decoder Equipment

EAS equipment can be programmed to automatically retransmit EAS alerts. If management has done this, your programming may be interrupted shortly after incoming EAS messages.

More information on EAS may be obtained from the Federal Communications Commission on our toll free number 888-225-5322 (888-CALL FCC).



Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for taking notes. It is outlined with a thin black border and occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.

National Activation Procedures

1 Receive the Emergency Action Notification Message (EAN)

Automatic and Manual Operation

You will see the words "Emergency Action Notification" on the EAS decoder display.

You will hear the following Emergency Action Notification Message from the EAS decoder.



Emergency Action Notification Audio Message

This is an Emergency Action Notification requested by the White House. The Authenticator Words for this notification are (___). All broadcast stations and cable systems will follow activation procedures in the EAS Operating Handbook for a national level emergency. The President of the United States or his representative will shortly deliver a message over the Emergency Alert System. The Authenticator Words are (___).

National Activation Procedures

2 Discontinue
normal
programming

For manual operation

Cease all programming and prepare to transmit the following announcement

3 Transmit this
announcement:

For manual operation



Transmit this Announcement

**We interrupt our programming; this is a
national emergency.**

Important instructions will follow.

National Activation Procedures

4 Transmit the EAS header codes followed by the attention signal.

Participating
Cable Systems

Non-Participating
Cable Systems

Cable systems must visually and aurally transmit header code data.

- *For automatic operation* EAS equipment will retransmit header codes and the attention signal.
- *For manual operation* Use the EAS encoder to retransmit the header codes and the attention signal .



Go to Step 5 of the
National Level EAS Activation Procedures

Go to Step 10 of the
National Level EAS Activation Procedures.

National Activation Procedures

5 Participating Cable Systems

For manual operation



Transmit this Announcement

This is an Emergency Action Notification. All broadcast stations and cable systems shall transmit this Emergency Action Notification Message. This cable system has interrupted its regular programming at the request of the White House to participate in the Emergency Alert System.

During this emergency, most cable systems will remain on the air providing news and information to the public in assigned areas. This is (cable system name). We will continue to serve the (EAS Local Area name) area. If you are not in this Local Area, you should select a channel providing news and information for your Local Area. You are listening to the Emergency Alert System serving the (EAS Local Area name) area.

Do not use your telephone. The telephone lines should be kept open for emergency use. The Emergency Alert System has been activated to keep you informed. (Repeat announcement)

National Activation Procedures

6 Monitor the following sources for further instructions

Select your monitoring source in the following order.

1 Local Primary Source (LP)

LP-1 and **LP-2**
of your EAS Local Area

(If unavailable)

2 State Relay Source (SR)

SR source for the
State EAS Relay Network.

(Next)

- 3**
- Any other broadcast station
 - Any other available source

National Activation Procedures

7 Transmit emergency messages as soon as they are available

The priorities for EAS messages are:

- **First** - Presidential messages must be carried live
- **Second** - Local Area messages
- **Third** - State messages
- **Fourth** - National Information Center (NIC) messages

Record lower priority messages for transmission at earliest opportunity

National Activation Procedures

8 Transmit this standby script until emergency messages are available

Manual Operation



Transmit this Announcement

We interrupt our programming at the request of the White House. This is the Emergency Alert System. All normal programming has been discontinued during this emergency.

This is (cable system name). This cable system will continue furnishing news, official information and instructions for the (EAS Local Area name) area.

If you are not in (EAS Local Area name) area, you should tune to stations providing news and information for your area. It is important that you listen carefully to announcements from the station or cable system in your local area.

REPEAT AS NEEDED

National Activation Procedures

9

After the Presidential message:

Transmit the End of Message Code

Log



Monitor



For automatic operation

The EAS encoder is programmed to automatically transmit the End of Message (EOM) code.

For manual operation

Manually transmit the End of Message (EOM) code with the EAS encoder.

1

Log the time and date the Emergency Action Notification is received at your cable system.

2

Monitor Your EAS Source for the Emergency Action Termination Message

3

When the Emergency Action Termination message is received on the EAS decoder, follow the National Level Termination procedures included in this handbook.

National Activation Procedures

10 Transmit this Announcement

Only
Non -Participating
Cable Systems

This Announcement
should be pre-recorded
if automatic operation
is used

For manual operation transmit the following :



Transmit this Announcement

This is an Emergency Action Notification. This cable system has interrupted its regular programming at the request of the White House to participate in the Emergency Alert System.

During this emergency, most broadcast stations will remain on the air providing news and information to the public in assigned areas.

This is (cable system name). We will be discontinuing programming. You should now tune to stations providing news and information for your Local Area.

This cable system will be discontinuing programming.

Do not use your telephone. The telephone lines should be kept open for emergency use. The Emergency Alert System has been activated to keep you informed...

Repeat Announcement

National Activation Procedures

11 Transmit the End of Message Code

Only
Non -Participating
Cable Systems

Log



Monitor



For automatic operation

The EAS encoder is programmed to automatically transmit the End of Message (EOM) code and may remove all programming from the Cable System.

For manual operation

- Manually transmit the End of Message (EOM) code with the EAS encoder.
- Sign Off
- Remove all programming from the Cable System

- 1** Log the time and date the Emergency Action Notification is received at your cable system
- 2** Monitor Your EAS Source for the Emergency Action Termination Message

When the Emergency Action Termination message is received on the EAS decoder, follow the National Level Termination procedures included in this handbook.

National Level Termination Procedures

1 Receive Emergency Action Termination

Automatic and Manual Operation

You will see the words "Emergency Action Termination" on the EAS decoder display.

You will hear the following Emergency Action Termination Message from the EAS decoder.



Emergency Action Termination Message

This concludes operations under the Emergency Alert System. All cable systems and broadcast stations may now resume normal programming operations.

National Level Termination Procedures

2 Transmit EAS header codes and attention signal

EAS Header Codes



ATTENTION SIGNAL



Cable systems must visually and aurally transmit header code data.

automatic operation

The EAS encoder will automatically transmit your EAS header code and attention signal.

For manual operation

Use your EAS encoder to transmit the EAS header code.

Use your EAS encoder to transmit the EAS attention signal.

National Level Termination Procedures

3 Transmit this announcement

For manual operation

Use the EAS encoder to transmit this announcement



Transmit this Announcement

This concludes operations under the Emergency Alert System. All cable systems and broadcast stations may now resume normal programming operations.

Repeat Announcement

National Level Termination Procedures

4 Transmit the End of Message Code

For automatic operation

The EAS encoder will automatically transmit the end of message code.

For manual operation

Use the EAS encoder to transmit the end of message code.

5 Resume Programming

Resume Normal Programming

6 Log



Log Receipt of Emergency Message

Record the time the Emergency Action Termination Notice was received in records/logs.



Notes

State and Local Activation Procedures

The EAS may be activated at management's discretion in connection with day-to-day emergency situations posing a threat to life and property. These activations may be performed at the State or Local Area level by any AM, FM, TV station or cable system.

State and Local Area emergency messages may be transmitted by using EAS Header and End of Message Codes. If this option is used by a TV broadcast station or cable system, the FCC recommends that the codes be preceded by an announcement that informs listeners that an EAS transmission will occur.

EMERGENCY:

A situation posing an extraordinary threat to the safety of life and property. Examples are, but not limited to natural situations such as: tornadoes, flash floods, icing conditions, heavy snows, fires and man-made situations such as: discharge of hazardous materials, power failures, industrial explosions, civil disorders and nuclear incidents.

SEVERE WEATHER WATCH:

A severe weather WATCH indicates that the probabilities of a particular severe weather storm are high, and is an alert to the public of such severe weather conditions.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING:

A severe weather WARNING indicates that a particular severe weather storm has actually been sighted in an area or indicated by radar, and serves notice to the public that severe weather conditions are almost certain to occur.

State and Local Activation Procedures

1 Receive requests for EAS activation by any of these methods:

STATE LEVEL OFFICIAL: A request for activation may be directed to the State Primary (SP) source by the Governor, his designated representative, the National Weather Service, or the State Office of Emergency Services. Other designated government officials may be found in your State EAS Plan.

LOCAL LEVEL OFFICIAL: A request for activation may be directed to the Local Primary (LP) source by the National Weather Service, Local Emergency Management or Public Safety Officials. Other designated government officials may be found in your Local EAS Plan.

2 Authenticate EAS Message

State Primary or the
Local Primary Sources

EAS DECODER DISPLAY. You will see the Emergency Message on the decoder display.

Authenticate the request for activation according to the EAS State or Local Area plan.

State & Local Activation Procedures

3 Transmit State/Local EAS opening message

For automatic operation

Programming may be interrupted shortly after you hear the incoming message. Procedures may vary according to broadcast station or cable system policy.

For manual operation

Record or store the message unless programming is interrupted to allow the emergency message to be transmitted live.



Transmit this Announcement

**We Interrupt this program because of a
(State or Local) emergency. Important
information will follow.**

State & Local Activation Procedures

4 Transmit the EAS header codes followed by the attention signal

Cable systems must visually and aurally transmit header code data.

- *For automatic operation* EAS equipment will retransmit header codes and the attention signal.
- *For manual operation* Use the EAS encoder to retransmit the header codes and the attention signal

5 Transmit the Emergency Message

- *For automatic operation* EAS equipment will transmit the emergency message
- *For manual operation* Transmit the emergency message (live or from storage) over the air.

If the emergency is continuing advise your audience to stay tuned for more messages

State and Local Activation Procedures

6 Transmit the End of Message Code (EOM) & Resume regular programming

For automatic operation

The EAS equipment will switch to normal programming when the EOM is received.

For manual operation

Transmit the EOM and Follow cable system procedures to resume normal programming.



Notes

Monthly and Weekly Tests

EAS Tests Are Required By FCC Regulations

Weekly Tests

Weekly tests consist of transmitting the EAS digital header codes and end of message codes once each week.

Weekly tests must be conducted:

- On different days
 - At different times
-

Monthly Tests

Consist of transmitting:

- the EAS digital header codes,
- the two-tone attention signal,
- a brief test script and end of message code.
- a visual display of header code data.

Is substituted for one weekly test.

In odd months monthly test must be conducted in daylight hours (8:30AM to sunset)

In even months monthly test must be conducted at night (sunset to 8:30 AM)

Must be retransmitted within 15 minutes of receipt.

Can be scheduled by State/Local Plan.

Monthly and Weekly Tests

Substitution of Weekly and Monthly Tests

NO WEEKLY TEST IS NECESSARY during a week when the monthly test is conducted or when there is an EAS activation for a State or Local emergency.

NO MONTHLY TEST IS NECESSARY during a month when there is an EAS activation that includes a two-tone alert signal, a video and an audio message.

Failure to receive an EAS test

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A TEST EACH WEEK from your two assigned monitoring sources take the following actions.

- **Determine why no test was received.**
 - Check your EAS equipment
 - Call your monitoring source(s).
- **Document your findings in the station logs or cable system records.**
- **Take appropriate corrective action.**

Monthly and Weekly Tests

1 Receive Test

Receive and Log the weekly test from your EAS Monitoring Assignments

2 Transmit Weekly Test

Weekly tests must be conducted on different days and at different times. Weekly tests do not have to be transmitted upon receipt.

You may wish to notify your listening audience that you are performing a test of the EAS equipment.

3 Discontinue normal programming

Sample Audio Message

This is a test of the Emergency Alert System.

- Transmit Weekly Test Codes on all channels.
- Transmit End of Message Codes on all channels.

Use the cable system EAS encoder to transmit the EAS header code and the EOM code. Less than 5,000 subscribers using Option A see chart on reverse front cover of this handbook.

4 Resume Normal Programming and Log

Resume Normal Programming and
Record receipt and transmission of the test

Monthly and Weekly Tests

1 Receive the test from your EAS Monitoring Assignment

2 Transmit this optional announcement

3 Discontinue normal programming

4 Re-transmit

Monthly Test

You may wish to notify your listening audience that you are performing a test of the EAS equipment.



Sample Audio Message

This is a test of the Emergency Alert System.

Cable systems

Over 5,000 or more subscribers must visually and aurally transmit header code data on all channels.

Less than 5,000 subscribers see chart on reverse front cover of this handbook

Use the EAS encoder to re-transmit the header codes and attention signal within 15 minutes of receipt.

Monthly and Weekly Tests

5 Monthly Test

**Retransmit
the monthly
test script as
received
from your
source**

Monthly Test



Sample Test Script

This is a coordinated monthly test of the broadcast stations and cable systems of your area. Equipment that can quickly warn you during emergencies is being tested. If this had been an actual emergency such as (insert types of emergencies that may occur in the geographic area), official messages would have followed the alert tone.

This concludes this test of the Emergency Alert System.

Monthly and Weekly Tests

6 Transmit the End of Message (EOM) Codes

Monthly Test

Use the EAS encoder to transmit the EOM code.

7 Resume Normal Programming and Log



Resume Normal Programming and
Log receipt and transmission of the test

Steps 3 through 7 of the monthly tests may be
performed automatically.